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# BELIEVE SOME G. I.S DUPED BY RED PROGRAM

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Need to Readjust.

By Richard Wilson

(The Register's Washington Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—

Official reports have been received here that a significant number of American prisoners of war have undergone the Communist indoctrination known as "brain washing."

High officials at the Pentagon and the central intelligence agency are studying the reports.

The "brain washing" technique, as it is called by the Chinese, aims at erasing previous concepts from the mind and implanting a new set of Communist standards and way of thinking.

### Never Occurred.

It has worked so successfully in the past that four American officers, two in the air force and two in the marines, have made elaborate "confessions" of their shame in participating in farm warfare attacks which never occurred.

Now, as more than a hundred wounded or ill Americans who have been in Communist hands

Russia's new peace statement in Pravda is viewed by the White House as a possible "first step toward something concrete" in settling world problems. STORY: PAGE 6.

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have been subjected to intense mental and ideological pressures.

A blackout on this phase of the prisoner exchange apparently has been imposed by the military authorities in Korea and Tokyo.

Prisoners who were briefly available in Korea to tell of their treatment at Communist hands are not available now in Tokyo, where they are undergoing medical treatment. Some prisoners have refused to be interviewed.

Meantime, reports from Korea indicate the repatriated Americans are undergoing thorough examination by American intelligence officers.

### Not Safe for Press.

Pentagon officials here will not discuss the question of how thoroughly some of the Americans may have been indoctrinated in the brain-washing process.

However, outside the Pentagon, another official who is in close touch with this development said that he could not deny a report from Korea that out of a group of 11 returned prisoners, seven had been so thoroughly indoctrinated that it was not considered wise to permit them to make statements to the press.

Various hints have come in news dispatches from Korea and Tokyo that some prisoners must be given a period of time in which to readjust themselves to the fact that they have returned to western life. Some have been in Communist hands for two years.

### Not Resentful.

In any event, from official sources it is learned that there is considered to have been an important development in this field growing out of the reaction of some of the prisoners.

Some are reported to feel that they have not been treated too badly, and to have shown sympathy for the point of view of their captors.

From others, of course, have come the stories of the forced marches, brutal treatment and atrocities, the sum of which may have resulted in the death of from 2,000 to 3,000 American prisoners.

For some time members of the families of some prisoners of war have noted in their letters back home a tone which might indicate the writers were blaming the war on the Communists.

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Officials here thought this was a preliminary indication that the brain-washing process was having its effect.

### Little Torture.

Allen W. Dulles, chief of the central intelligence agency, calls the attack on the minds of western prisoners "brain warfare." He attaches great significance to it, believing that the methods have been learned from the Soviet police, and are greatly refined from the technique used by them in extracting confessions.

The principal refinement, he believes, is that physical torture is not now used by the Chinese, though their victims may be subjected to considerable physical strain while being questioned.

As the method has been described here, it consists mostly of endless questioning and harangue, coupled with loss of sleep, for prolonged periods and at odd hours over a period of approximately 75 days.

The brain-washing idea originally was used widely by the Chinese Communists in the re-education of youth to take its place in the Communist regime. The initial efforts led to a refinement now called "brain changing."

Once the mind were washed of its old concepts, it would be changed to conform to the Communist idea of the new man.

Some have speculated that United Nations prisoners of war who were considered to be the most thoroughly indoctrinated were returned first, and this may account for the fact that some of them are undergoing medical treatment before making detailed public statements.

It is considered possible Ameri-

can authorities feel that what has been implanted in the minds of some of the prisoners must be washed out by a re-education process.

However, it is clear that a good many prisoners were not affected much by their indoctrination, but promptly told of the atrocities.

One theory in Washington is that the ill and maimed would be the least likely to have been subjected to severe courses of indoctrination. In the first place, they would be hospitalized. Their physical condition would not permit the intensive interrogation and harangue accompanying the brain-changing process.

What is known of the process suggests that the Chinese wish those subjected to this treatment to be well enough to be in command of their memories and to be able to respond during long sessions of questioning.

For it is through the questioning and the adroit manipulation of what a subject remembers that the Chinese are said to be able to twist the mind.

The first aim is to implant in the subject an enormous sense of guilt growing out of his past actions and associations.

It is questionable whether the Chinese have had the manpower to subject all prisoners to this intensive treatment. Officials here say that at least three interrogators per prisoner would be required for that.

But it is already established that prisoners have been lectured and harangued in mass, apparently in somewhat the same way that the youth of China have been put through the re-education process.

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